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For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON FEVERS.

AS fever is at present very prevalent in your town, and some neighbouring places, I think you might profitably occupy a corner in your miscellany with the following Rules to prevent the spreading of infectious fevers. I likewise recommend you to publish the address lately circulated, previous to the charity sermon preached in the parish church of Belfast on the 5th of March last, for the benefit of the Fever Hospital and Dispensary. As the remarks are so excellent and of a general tendency as to the prevention of contagion, it would be wrong to confine them within the circle in which they were originally published. By diffusing them more generally, you may confer a public benefit, by showing the necessity of establishing Houses of Recovery in cases of fever in other places. A PHILANTHROPIST.

Rules to prevent infectious fevers.

IT may be proper to observe that the poison of a putrid fever, in a small, close, and dirty room, affects a very great proportion of mankind, not less than 26 out of 27, or a still greater proportion; but, in a large, airy, clean apartment, even putrid fevers are seldom or ever infectious. When this poisonous vapour is mixed with fresh air it is not hurtful. From an attentive consideration of numerous facts, relative to this distemper, have been formed the following rules:

1. As safety from danger entirely depends on cleanliness, and fresh air, the room-door of the patient, ill of an infectious fever, especially in the habitations of the poor, should never be shut, a window in it during the day, ought to be frequently opened. Such regulations would be highly useful to the patient and nurses: but are particularly important previous to the arrival of any visitor.

2. The bed-curtains should never be close drawn round the patient, but only next the light to shade the face.

3. Dirty clothes, utensils, &c. should be frequently changed, immediately put into cold water, and washed clean, when taken out of it.

4. All discharges from the patient should be instantly removed. The floor near the patient's bed rubbed clean every day.

5. The air in a sick room has, at the same time, a more infectious quality in some parts of it than in others. Visitors and attendants should avoid the patient's breath; the air which ascends from his body, especially if the bed curtains be closed, and the vapours arising from all evacuations. When medical or other duties require a visitor to be placed in these situations of danger, infection may be frequently prevented by holding in the breath.

6. Visitors should not go into an infectious chamber, with an empty stomach, and in doubtful circumstances on coming out, they should blow from the nose, and spit from the mouth, any infectious poison, which may have been drawn in by the breath.

ADDRESS TO THE INHABITANTS OF BELFAST.

THE managing Committee of the DISPENSARY and FEVER HOSPITAL, from an experience of several years, in the public utility of these Establishments, call upon the Inhabitants of Belfast for a continuance of support and encouragement. The Committee make this call with confidence, from a conviction, that an Institution which has deserved so well the patronage of the Public, will not now be considered as a subject of mere casual and precarious bounty, but rather worthy of permanent and habitual protection. It is no longer an experiment to be tried, but an Establishment to be maintained.

Motives of humanity, and of *self-interest*, unite in securing the permanence of an Institution, which has hitherto drawn forth the judicious liberality of the Inhabitants. Every Man, for his own sake, every Father, for the sake of his family, must be willing to contribute something to an assurance from the spread of Fever, as he would from the ravages of Fire; and it is the object of the Hospital to extinguish Fever in its first sparks, before it spreads, from neglect, uncleanliness, or mismanagement, through the family, then through the neighbourhood, and, at length, by the necessary intercourse of society, in

various ways, through the whole town. A single case of Fever, from the focus of a dirty hovel, may chance to multiply into a malignant epidemic. The Institution wishes to arrest it in the earliest part of its progress, to crush the head of the serpent, before it gathers all its venomous malignancy, before it propagates its likeness, before it creeps from its low abode, into the chambers of the middling and higher orders, where, in general, it darts its mortal poison.

It has been said that Fever, among the poor, is seldom fatal, that nature is generally the best physician, and that she performs the cure, in spite of the drugs and the Doctors. But the poor, as well as the rich must, and will, have Doctors of one kind or other. They will become subjects of a bad practice, if they be not, by professional humanity, made subjects of a good plan of treatment. They will be obliged to drink spirits out of a naggin, if they do not get proper medicine out of a phial. Nature will be always more counteracted by the prejudices of the vulgar, than under the management of a regular Physician, who knows himself to be but Nature's servant and interpreter. It appears certain that the advice and authority of men who unite knowledge to humanity, and zeal with activity, have gradually, and imperceptibly, produced the best effects in changing the regimen usually adopted by the poor, in cases of Fever. Their experience of cold, as one of the greatest evils, had probably led to the prejudice, that heat, both external and internal must be the sovereign remedy, and hence they recurred, in such complaints, at the very first, to ardent spirits through choice, and, at the last, to cold water through necessity.

Medicines are supplied to the poor in the Dispensary-department of the Institution; and the sick poor, who cannot be removed, are visited by either physician or surgeon at their own abodes. All subscribers of one guinea in the year, have a power of recommending to the Hospital and the Dispensary.

Every large town, in particular every manufacturing town, and Belfast has, of late years, become of that number, may be said to be encircled with a margin of misery. Often, the more prosperous, and gay, and sparkling things appear in the interior of such towns, the broader and darker is this border of wretchedness which surrounds them. The pressure of want, in a certain degree, may be allotted to a large portion of every society, as the most effectual stimulus and incitement to labour, and industry; but there is an extreme degree of want and misery, which precludes all ability to labour, begets a torpid inactivity, and finishes, by generating pestilential disorders. It becomes, therefore, the duty, the interest and the sacred obligation of the more wealthy part of the Community to guard their fellow-citizens, themselves and their families, from the ravages of malignant contagions. The most useful part of the Police, in a great town, is that which respects the health of the inhabitants, and it is often a department the most shamefully neglected.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

HAVING understood that freedom is allowed in your press, I wish to offer the following remarks to my fellow-islanders, through the medium of your Magazine.

AN ADDRESS TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND.

Countrymen,

As the present time seems to be awfully important, whether we take a view of the nations at large, or of those kingdoms with whose prosperity our own welfare is so intimately connected, it would appear to be our duty, in our respective stations, to remove the grievances we now lie under, as far as in our power, by an examination of our past conduct, wherein we may view the causes of our present distress. If we take a view of the rise and progress of the French war, and impartially consider what were the motives by which we were influenced to carry on that dreadful and destructive contest, I am confident we will find it was rather from pride and ambition, than from a benevolent love to the human race.—The present exorbitant prices of many